

# THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT REPORT



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**PROUDLY REPRESENTING SAN FRANCISCO AND SAN MATEO COUNTIES**

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## **SPEAKER PRO TEM LELAND YEE HONORS ANNETTE HIPONA AS 'WOMAN OF THE YEAR'**



**PARENT, SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, NEIGHBORHOOD  
ACTIVIST HONORED AT STATE CAPITOL CEREMONY**

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Assembly Speaker pro Tem Yee recently honored Daly City resident and Jefferson Elementary School Board Member Annette Hipona as the 2006 12th Assembly District Woman of the Year. Hipona was formally recognized on Monday, March 20, 2006 at the State Capitol in Sacramento during a special ceremony of the State Assembly.

"I proudly recognize Annette Hipona for her commitment to our children and our community," said Yee.

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## **YEE INTRODUCES RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANTI-IMMIGRANT, DISCRIMINATORY FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

***IN DEMOCRATIC RADIO ADDRESS, YEE CALLS ON CONGRESS  
TO STOP PUSHING DIVISIVE LEGISLATION***

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Bay Area Asian and Latino community leaders and immigrant rights activists, led by Speaker pro Tem Yee, recently called on the community to unite against federal legislation targeting immigrants in the US. The group also commended the protesters of San Francisco and across the country who have held a week long hunger strike and rallies in opposition to the anti-immigrant, discriminatory HR 4437.

"We support these protesters here in San Francisco and across the nation in their message to the federal government that immigrant communities deserve to be treated with respect and dignity," said Speaker pro Tem Yee. "All members of our community must stand up with our Latino brothers and sisters and speak with one voice as we demand that our federal representatives do everything possible to protect immigrant families living in this country. HR 4437 is a bad policy that unfairly discriminates against many people in our community."

"I plan to introduce a state resolution next week to officially declare California's opposition to such anti-immigrant, anti-worker federal legislation," said Yee. "We should not use any state resources to enforce such discriminatory laws."

The US Senate is considering legislation already approved by the House of Representatives, which would make it a felony to be in the U.S. illegally, impose harsh new penalties on businesses that employ illegal immigrants, and even require churches to check the legal status of the people they help. The bill would also fund the building of a wall along the US-Mexico border.

As a result of 34% decrease in legal immigration (US Department of Homeland Security), "unauthorized" immigration has increased. There are an estimated 2.4 million "unauthorized" immigrants in California, a majority coming from Mexico, Latin

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“Whether it is protecting pedestrians from dangerous intersections or volunteering to help students in the classroom, Annette is always leading and empowering others.”

As a lifetime resident of Daly City, Hipona began her community involvement as a volunteer classroom tutor for eight years. Gradually she assumed increased leadership responsibilities, as an elected member of a district-wide Parent Advisory Committee, appointed board member of the Peninsula Library System, officer and fundraiser for the Friends of the Daly City Library, and now as a member of the Jefferson Elementary School Board.

Hipona organized a citywide parking summit to address the parking crisis in Daly City. She has become an advocate for the quality of life and the economic and cultural diversity throughout Daly City neighborhoods.

“Ms. Hipona has not only fought to protect vital funding for our schools and libraries, but she has also been a steadfast advocate for our neighborhoods and working families,” said Yee. “Annette does not shy away from hard work, but instead steps up to the plate whenever our children and community needs her leadership.”

The Woman of the Year event was started in 1987 in recognition of Women's History Month in March. In celebration of the contributions to society made by remarkable women throughout California, the Assembly arranged to invite one woman from each Assembly District to come to the Capitol and be honored for their accomplishments. This yearly event is sponsored and organized by the California Legislative Women's Caucus.

Speaker pro Tem Yee's 2005 Woman of the Year, Tess Manalo-Ventresca, led an extraordinary life that came to an end on July 12, 2005.



## **YEE HONORS CHAVEZ AND ITLIONG UNITED FARM WORKER ORGANIZERS REMEMBERED**

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Along side members of the local Filipino community, Yee recently presented Larry Itliong's daughter, Sandra Cindy Sanchez, with an official Assembly Resolution honoring her father's contributions to California. Itliong, alongside Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, founded the United Farm Workers (UFW).

Yee also proudly co-authored ACR 115, declaring Cesar Chavez Day in California.

“Cesar Chavez is not only a symbol to farm workers and to Latinos in particular, but to all Californians who find hope in the struggle for peace and justice,” said Yee. “Itliong is an unsung hero to all workers and to all communities. It is unfortunate that someone who was such a great communicator, and in fact spoke nine Philippine dialects, is often overlooked when remembering the labor movement. Itliong deserves recognition for his work.”



## **YEE SUBMITS VIOLENT VIDEO GAME TESTIMONY TO U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE *SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE EXAMINES EFFECTS OF VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES ON CHILDREN***

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Speaker pro Tem Yee submitted testimony to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Property Rights of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. Yee was invited to Washington, D.C. to testify at the request of U.S. Senators Russ Feingold (D-WI) and Sam Brownback (R-KS).

However, due to a hearing held in Sacramento of the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee, of which Yee is a member, the Assemblyman was unable to travel to the U.S. Capitol.

The hearing, titled “State Regulation of Violent Video Games and the First Amendment,” brought testimony from a number of nationally recognized legal and medical experts to examine recent legislative efforts to prohibit the sale of extremely violent video games to minors, such as Yee's AB 1179, which was signed into law last year but is currently being challenged in federal court.

“Throughout the United States, municipalities are attempting to respond to the public outrage over the extremely violent video games that minors can easily purchase without their parent's knowledge,” said Yee. “The California State Legislature considered extensive research demonstrating the harmful effects violent interactive video games have on minors and now Congress is doing the same. Our children deserve such protection and our parents need a little help as they raise their children.”

Yee's testimony detailed the history of his violent video game legislation and provided the committee with extensive background on the issues, studies, and facts that the State Legislature and Governor considered in adopting AB 1179. Yee also cited case law demonstrating why he believes the California statute will inevitably be upheld by the courts as Constitutional.

Yee wrote: *We considered precedent set by the U.S. Supreme Court. In Ginsberg v. State of New York (1968), the Court said, “even where there is an invasion of protected freedoms, the power of the state to control the conduct of children reaches beyond the scope of its authority over adults.” The Court has made ruling after ruling firmly establishing, as they did in Bellotti v. Baird (1979) that “the States validly may limit the freedom of children to choose for themselves in the making of important, affirmative choices with potentially serious consequences. These rulings have been grounded in the recognition that, during the formative years of childhood and adolescence, minors often lack the experience, perspective, and judgment to recognize and avoid choices that could be detrimental to them.” And finally, just last year, the Supreme Court ruled in the child death penalty case, Roper v. Simmons (2005), that children are different in the eyes of the law because of brain development.*

**[CLICK TO READ YEE'S TESTIMONY](#)**



## 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF 1906 QUAKE RENEWS CALLS FOR SEISMIC SAFETY

*SPEAKER PRO TEM YEE CO-AUTHORS RESOLUTION  
COMMEMORATING SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE*

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The California State Assembly recently approved a resolution commemorating the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, one of the most significant earthquakes of all time.

"As we acknowledge the 100 year anniversary of the 1906 earthquake, it is important that we also renew our efforts to effectively plan and prepare to withstand and respond to the inevitable next big earthquake," said Yee, a co-author of Assembly Concurrent Resolution 121, the legislation that officially memorializes April 18, 2006 as the 100th anniversary of the historic earthquake. "It is vital that state and local governments be committed to taking every step possible to ensure public safety."

The 1906 earthquake ruptured the northernmost 430 kilometers of the San Andreas Fault from San Juan Bautista to Cape Mendocino, and was felt from Los Angeles to Oregon. The quake, which lasted only one minute at 5:12 A.M., caused the worst natural disaster in the nation's history. The modern analysis estimates that it registered an approximate magnitude of 8 on the Richter scale. More importantly, the earthquake killed approximately 3,000 San Francisco residents and left over half the city population homeless.

Risk Management Solutions, Inc. estimates that a repeat of the 1906 earthquake would result in up to 8,000 deaths, 18,000 injuries requiring hospitalization, and projected losses of up to \$225 billion. The Director of the Department of Water Resources recently stated that a 6.5 magnitude earthquake could also cause a collapse of up to 30 levees; flood 16 Delta islands, 3,000 homes, and over 85,000 acres of Delta farmland; and damage 200 miles of additional levees, resulting in \$30 billion in damages.

"Our state and the Bay Area will inevitably face another great earthquake, but we can and should make sure that such a quake does not cause a catastrophic disaster or loss of life," said Yee. "We have made great strides in better seismic mapping and retrofitting of critical infrastructure, but more needs to be done to protect all our residents."

Yee has authored significant legislation on seismic safety. AB 3032 (2004) was signed into law to allow local governments to institute a placard for buildings that have been retrofitted for seismic safety, stating that the building is now considered safe in the event of an earthquake. AB 3033 (2004), also signed into law, allows owners of unreinforced masonry buildings to retrofit their existing buildings without triggering other supplementary building improvements.



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### [CLICK TO HEAR LELAND YEE GIVE THE DEMOCRATIC RADIO ADDRESS](#)

American countries, and Asia (California Labor and Development Agency).

California's unemployment rate is lower than it was in 1990, the state's poverty rate is now closer to the national average, and California continues to outpace the national average for job growth. The poverty rate declines as immigrants' length of residence in the US increases. Only 4.3% of US workers are "unauthorized" immigrants. However, they account for 19% of farming jobs, 17% of cleaning jobs, 12% of construction jobs and 11% of food preparation occupations.

"To keep this country at its best we must stop these attacks on immigrants," said San Francisco Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval, whose District 11 has the highest percentage of foreign-born residents in the City. "I strongly urge our federal representatives to stand with us in opposing anti-immigrant legislation, and I urge Bay Area residents to contact our U.S. Senators and representatives to tell them to fight back against these efforts to punish immigrant communities."

"California must educate all children who come to our schools, regardless of their parents' status in this country. It's our moral responsibility to provide all kids with a quality education and the opportunity to succeed," said Eric Mar, former President of the San Francisco School Board. "I hope we can convince our representatives in Washington to rally against this plan."



## JOIN THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN!

*STATEWIDE EFFORT OF MEN SPEAKING OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN*



**[CLICK HERE TO SIGN THE PLEDGE AND HELP  
PUT AN END TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN](#)**

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**[CLICK TO HEAR LELAND YEE ON THE WRC](#)**







March 3, 2006



Friday

## New Push To Clean Up Nail Salons

BY NANNETTE MIRANDA, Capitol Correspondent

### SAN FRANCISCO -

There's a new push to get dirty nail salons to clean up their act. A Bay Area lawmaker wants to tighten safety regulations after reports a Texas woman died from an infection she got during a pedicure.

The governor vetoed a bill on salon safety last year, but the Texas death may give the bill new life.

David Jackson, victim's ex-husband: "Something so stupid like a pedicure took her life."

Kimberly Jackson's doctor says a persistent staph infection from a pedicure led to the Texas woman's fatal heart attack.

Asmb. Leland Yee, (D) San Francisco: "The sooner the better because this is not about just simply some cosmetic issue. But this is really a life and death issue."

Assemblyman Leland Yee called for emergency regulations on Friday to force nail salons to do a better job of disinfecting their instruments and



making sure workers are properly trained.

Bacterial outbreaks between 1999 and 2004 infected more than 200 people in the Watsonville and San Jose areas.

To boost his bill last year to crackdown on salons, Yee brought American Idol star Paula Abdul to Sacramento to tell lawmakers about a thumb infection she got from an upscale salon.

Paula Abdul, singer-dancer, from June 27, 2005: "This kind of infection was so excruciating."



But Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the proposal in October saying too much regulations could hurt innocent businesses.

He did, however, direct his Consumer Affairs director to look into making industry specific changes.

Charlene Zettel, Dept. of Consumer Affairs: "We anticipate more meetings. The result will be proposed in a couple of months."

So far there is no mandate for salons to buy new hi-tech whirlpool foot spas

that tells customers whether it's safe.

Alex Ninh, AmeriSpa : "All the customer has to do is look for the red

and green light. If the red light is on, don't put your feet in the spa."

But not every salon can afford to buy the new equipment.

Britanny Welby testified at the same hearing as Paula Abdul, showing lawmakers permanent scarring from a pedicure infection.

Today, she also called for emergency regulations, in light of Jackson's death.

Brittany Welby, pedicure customer: "Yes I'm lucky to be alive still, that that didn't happen to me." ❖



March 30, 2006

## BAY AREA REPORTER

Thursday

# Federal immigration bill protested

BY BOB AKERS

San Francisco Assemblyman Leland Yee and a group of community leaders and civil rights activists on Tuesday, March 28 called on people to unite against federal legislation targeting immigrants.

In addition, Yee (D-San Francisco) said he plans on introducing a state resolution next week to officially declare California's opposition to the proposed legislation.

Speaking at a news conference held inside the state building, Bay Area Asian and Latino leaders and activists, including Cecilia Chung, representing the Transgender Law Center, joined Yee in opposition to a federal bill that was passed in the House of Representatives in December. That proposal would criminalize undocumented immigrants, among other harsh measures.

"A lot of us came to this country, including many people in the LGBT community, with a dream to better ourselves. Now this legislation is aimed at people trying to overcome those obstacles," said Chung.

"What message are we sending our young people? The felony charge not only takes away people's dreams, but also takes away their future. I don't know if I can call this country my own anymore ... the American dream is dying," she said.

The Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday approved a different immigration reform proposal that allows for a guest worker program and would legalize the nation's 11 million undocumented immigrants. The House version (HR 4437) would make it a felony to be in this country illegally, impose harsh new penalties on businesses that employ illegal immigrants, and even require churches to check the legal status of the people they help.

The House bill also would fund the construction of a wall along the US-Mexican border.

It was the House bill that was the target of Tuesday's news conference.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano could not attend Tuesday's news conference but issued a statement read by Yee condemning the legislation.

In his statement, Ammiano called the bill "a draconian act of aggression directed at those who already constitute amongst the most vulnerable, disadvantaged, and persecuted populations in the country."

"The wholesale criminalization of millions of Americans with the stroke of a pen is something that the citizens of San Francisco can not and will not tolerate," he stated. "But even the most cold, reactionary, fiscally minded conservative should be terrified of this bill. If all undocumented immigrants in California are all of a sudden branded as felons, it is the beginning of the end of our local and national economy, because as we all know, California would be unable to function without undocumented workers."

"The Asian community must stand up with our Latino brothers and sisters to speak with one voice as we demand that our federal representatives do everything possible to protect immigrant



**Cecilia Chung of the Transgender Law Center speaks out against a proposed federal immigration law passed by the House of Representatives.**  
Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland

discriminatory laws."

"The government has no business getting into seeing who is here legally or illegally, Yee said. "I am getting tired of defending immigrants, time and time again."

"It is always interesting that we have people in government who say we don't need immigrants, but when they need someone to work in the field or clean their office building, they say maybe these individuals are of some use to us," said Yee.

Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval said that while he felt the House bill especially targeted the Asian and Latino communities, "If it is passed, it will only be a matter of time until they start coming after everyone. Shame on ... people in Washington for trying to criminalize immigration."

Sandoval, whose District 11 has the highest percentage of foreign-born residents in the city, said, "To keep this country at its best we must stop these attacks on immigrants. I strongly urge our federal representatives to stand with us in opposing anti-immigration legislation, and I urge Bay Area residents to contact our senators and representatives to tell them to fight back against these efforts to punish immigrant communities."

families living in this country," Yee said.

Yee called the bill "bad policy" and said,

"We should not use any state resources to enforce such

Bea Duncan, representing the SEIU 790 Latino Caucus, said she just returned from Los Angeles where a massive demonstration against the House legislation took place Saturday. Authorities estimated that 500,000 people took part in the event. Another 5,000 people demonstrated against the legislation Sunday.

School Board member Eric Mar said, "Many young people, whether in middle school or high school, are learning about civil rights and along with others are building a coalition for civil rights. We are uniting like never before. Chicano, Latino and Asian communities are coming together and we are going to fight these legislators."

Juan Prado, of the San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness, said, "For someone who was once an illegal immigrant, I take this thing personally. For someone who works with the homeless, people who are easily criminalized, I take this personally."

The community leaders also commended a group of protesters in San Francisco – and others across the country – who have held a weeklong hunger strike and rallies to protest the House bill.

A protest march in support of the bill's defeat is being scheduled for April, from Dolores Park to the federal building, according to Sheila Chung of the Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition.

Yee's office cited statistics from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which says unauthorized immigration to this country has increased as a result of a 34 percent decrease in legal immigration. There are an estimated 2.4 million unauthorized immigrants in California, a majority coming from Mexico, Latin American countries, and Asia, according to information from the California Labor and Development Agency.